Message Text

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TAGS: OECD, OCOM
SUBJECT: INVITATION TO SECRETARY VANCE TO BE KEYNOTE
SPEAKER AT MARSHALL PLAN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER
JUNE 2, 1977

REFS: (A) OECD PARIS 4012, OECD PARIS 5300

- 1. IN LIGHT OF AMBASSADOR TURNER'S DISCUSSION WITH UNDER SECRETARY COOPER CONCERNING THE MARSHALL PLAN CELEBRATION THE MISSION WOULD LIKE TO REAFFIRM ITS RECOMMENDATION THAT, IF POSSIBLE, SECRETARY VANCE ACCEPT AN INVITATION FROM THE ORGANIZERS OF THE CONFERENCE TO BE ONE OF TWO KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AT THE OFFICIAL DINNER THURSDAY, JUNE 2, NOW LESS THAN NINETY DAYS AWAY.
- 2. AS INDICATED IN REF (B) FRENCH PRIME MINISTER BARRE HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED THE OTHER KEYNOTE SLOT AT THE BANQUET. IN VIEW OF THIS, THE MISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE SECRETARY, AS GEORGE MARSHALL'S SUCCESSOR, TO BE A SPEAKER AT THIS IMPORTANT SYMPOSIUM (SEE REF A). WE RECOGNIZE THE CROWDED AND UNCERTAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATURE OF THE MAY-JUNE MINISTERIAL MEETING SCHEDULE, AND THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF A DEFINITE REPLY AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE SECRETARY'S TENTATIVE WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND COULD PERHAPS BE GIVEN IF THE CELEBRATION WERE TO BE HELD BACK-TO-BACK WITH THE COMING CIEC MINISTERIAL TENTATIVE-LY SCHEDULED FOR THE LAST DAYS OF MAY OR EARLY JUNE.

(SPONSORS HAVE INDICATED SOME LIMITED FLEXIBILITY IN DATES TO ACCOMMODATE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT.)

- 3. IF THE SECRETARY IS UNABLE TO ATTEND, THE ORGANIZERS WISH TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO PROCEED WITH THEIR INTENTION TO INVITE VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE BEFORE HIS SCHEDULE PRECLUDES HIS ATTENDANCE. IN THIS RESPECT, THE SECRETARY'S SUPPORT FOR SUCH AN INVITATION, IN THE EVENT HE CANNOT GO, WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.
- 4. CO-CHAIRMAN LINCOLN GORDON INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR TURNER LAST WEEK THAT HE PLANS TO DISCUSS THE MARSHALL PLAN SYMPOSIUM AND THE INVITATION TO SECRETARY VANCE WITH UNDER SECRETARY COOPER IN WASHINGTON WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE HOPES TO HAVE AN ANSWER IN TIME TO INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE AMERICAN KEYNOTE SPEAKER IN THE FIRST GROUP OF INVITATIONS, BEING FORWARDED WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE WEEKS.

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